

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

On 12/15/2009, applicant amended pending claims 26-42.

Claims 1-25 have been cancelled during prosecution.

Claims 26-42 are pending prior to this Office Action.

Claim History

The following chart is presented to clarify claim numbers:

date	action	claims
12/15/2009	Amdt	1-25 shown as cancelled, applicant amended claims 26-42
09/15/2009	NF	26-42 rejected
06/10/2009	Amdt	13-25 shown as cancelled, applicant added claims 26-42
03/24/2008	AF,NE	1-12, amd, 13 is cancelled, 14-25 amended, 26-50 added, 51-52 added
12/31/2008	FINAL	13-25 rejected
07/02/2007	Amdt	1-12 xxd, applicant added claims 13-25
06/22/2007	Misc. letter	13-49 new
04/02/2007	NF	1-12 rejected
03/31/2004	Original	1-12

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 26-42 have been considered but are moot in view of the Examiner's amendment, which introduces claims 43-45.

Claims 43-45 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

The following is an Examiner's amendment to the record. The amendment was approved by Mr. Swayze on 03/09/2010.

Claims 26-42 are hereby cancelled and Claims 43-45 are hereby entered:

43. (new) A method for facilitating quotes/orders involving interchange between a plurality of vendors and a plurality of users through a portal by using an E-commerce Engine for quotes/orders so a vendor connected on the internet or intranet with a web site can present selectable options said method comprising the steps of:

uploading, by the plurality of vendors, data including at least one XSD, each XSD corresponding to one product, each product including at least one element, each element including at least one sub-element, each sub-element including at least one variable, each variable including at least one attribute of the product;

selecting, by the user, a product category;

determining, by the portal, that an XSD is present for the selected product category;

retrieving, by the portal, the at least one product attribute by parsing each element and sub-element in the XSD;

displaying, by the portal, at least one screen including a plurality of product option questions, each product option question corresponding to at least one product attribute and corresponding a plurality of attribute values, said attribute values displaying drop-down menus and data fields, said data fields having formats including numeric, alpha-numeric and drop-down fields;

displaying, by the portal, a primary screen, said primary screen including at least one of an additional information screen and an SVG screen to permit the user to enter data, and updating the primary screen after the user leaves each field;

generating, by the portal, a real-time graphic image based on a user drawn SVG image on said SVG screen;

adding, by the user, at least one image related to the product, said image selected from a stored graphic image and the real-time user drawn SVG image;

answering, by the user, the product option questions;

In response to clicking on a more info button, displaying additional information for a selected attribute;

reiteratively updating, by the user, said answers and said SVG image;

reiteratively validating input, by the portal, wherein said validating includes comparing the answers to data uploaded by said vendors in said XSD;

cross-checking, by the portal, each sub-element and checking for errors per predefined rules, said validation including validating an acceptable range wherein said checks include specifying regular expression patterns according to other fields in the XSD;

confirming, by the portal, that the selected options are available from the specified vendors, wherein said confirming step is based on review of a plurality of element definitions submitted by the plurality of vendors as XSD;

computing, by the portal, based on the XSD for the product, a cost for the product, said cost including product selling price, shipping cost, taxes, discounts;

formatting, by the portal, said answers into XML;

writing, by the portal, the user answers in XML format into a single table and into portal history storage;

displaying, by the portal, the list of vendors with price for a desired combination of elements for the product;

selecting, by the user, at least one vendor to place the order to and assigning, by the E-commerce engine, an order number and displaying the request for quotes;

transmitting, by the portal, a request for quotes to selected vendors, said request being based on the user answers;

receiving by the portal, responses to the request for quotes (RFQ), said responses including quoted/order cost amount;

formatting and displaying, by the portal, said responses from the vendors;

selecting, by the user, a response;

by the portal, linking the user to an e-commerce site of the vendor corresponding to the selected response to complete order payment.

44. (new) A method for facilitating quotes/orders involving interchange between a plurality of vendors and a plurality of users through only an E-commerce Engine for quotes/orders so a vendor connected on the internet or intranet with a web site can present selectable options said method comprising the steps of:

uploading, by the plurality of vendors, data including at least one XSD, each XSD corresponding to one product, each product including at least one element, each element including at least one sub-element, each sub-element including at least one variable, each variable including at least one attribute of the product;

selecting, by the user, a product category;

determining, by the portal, that an XSD is present for the selected product category;

retrieving, by the portal, the at least one product attribute by parsing each element and sub-element in the XSD;

displaying, by the portal, at least one screen including a plurality of product option questions, each product option question corresponding to at least one product attribute and corresponding a plurality of attribute values, said attribute values displaying drop-down menus and data fields, said data fields having formats including numeric, alpha-numeric and drop-down fields;

displaying, by the portal, a primary screen, said primary screen including at least one of an additional information screen and an SVG screen to permit the user to enter data, and updating the primary screen after the user leaves each field;

generating, by the portal, a real-time graphic image based on a user drawn SVG image on said SVG screen;

adding, by the user, at least one image related to the product, said image selected from a stored graphic image and the real-time user drawn SVG image;

answering, by the user, the product option questions;

In response to clicking on a more info button, displaying additional information for a selected attribute;

reiteratively updating, by the user, said answers and said SVG image;

reiteratively validating input, by the portal, wherein said validating includes comparing the answers to data uploaded by said vendors in said XSD;

cross-checking, by the portal, each sub-element and checking for errors per predefined rules, said validation including validating an acceptable range wherein said checks include specifying regular expression patterns according to other fields in the XSD;

confirming, by the portal, that the selected options are available from the specified vendors, wherein said confirming step is based on review of a plurality of element definitions submitted by the plurality of vendors as XSD;

computing, by the portal, based on the XSD for the product, a cost for the product, said cost including product selling price, shipping cost, taxes, discounts;

formatting, by the portal, said answers into XML;

writing, by the portal, the user answers in XML format into a single table and into portal history storage;

displaying, by the portal, the list of vendors with price for a desired combination of elements for the product;

selecting, by the user, at least one vendor to place the order to and assigning, by the E-commerce engine, an order number and displaying the request for quotes;

transmitting, by the portal, a request for quotes to selected vendors, said request being based on the user answers;

receiving by the portal, responses to the request for quotes (RFQ), said responses including quoted/order cost amount;

formatting and displaying, by the portal, said responses from the vendors;

selecting, by the user, a response;

by the portal, linking the user to an e-commerce site of the vendor corresponding to the selected response to complete order payment.

45. (new) A method for facilitating quotes/orders involving interchange between a plurality of vendors and a plurality of users through only a portal for quotes/orders so a vendor connected on the internet or intranet with a web site can present selectable options said method comprising the steps of:

uploading, by the plurality of vendors, data including at least one XSD, each XSD corresponding to one product, each product including at least one element, each element including at least one sub-element, each sub-element including at least one variable, each variable including at least one attribute of the product;

selecting, by the user, a product category;

determining, by the portal, that an XSD is present for the selected product category;

retrieving, by the portal, the at least one product attribute by parsing each element and sub-element in the XSD;

displaying, by the portal, at least one screen including a plurality of product option questions, each product option question corresponding to at least one product attribute and corresponding a plurality of attribute values, said attribute values displaying drop-down menus and data fields, said data fields having formats including numeric, alpha-numeric and drop-down fields;

displaying, by the portal, a primary screen, said primary screen including at least one of an additional information screen and an SVG screen to permit the user to enter data, and updating the primary screen after the user leaves each field;

generating, by the portal, a real-time graphic image based on a user drawn SVG image on said SVG screen;

adding, by the user, at least one image related to the product, said image selected from a stored graphic image and the real-time user drawn SVG image;

answering, by the user, the product option questions;

In response to clicking on a more info button, displaying additional information for a selected attribute;

reiteratively updating, by the user, said answers and said SVG image;

reiteratively validating input, by the portal, wherein said validating includes comparing the answers to data uploaded by said vendors in said XSD;

cross-checking, by the portal, each sub-element and checking for errors per predefined rules, said validation including validating an acceptable range wherein said checks include specifying regular expression patterns according to other fields in the XSD;

confirming, by the portal, that the selected options are available from the specified vendors, wherein said confirming step is based on review of a plurality of element definitions submitted by the plurality of vendors as XSD;

computing, by the portal, based on the XSD for the product, a cost for the product, said cost including product selling price, shipping cost, taxes, discounts;

formatting, by the portal, said answers into XML;

writing, by the portal, the user answers in XML format into a single table and into portal history storage;

displaying, by the portal, the list of vendors with price for a desired combination of elements for the product;

selecting, by the user, at least one vendor to place the order to and assigning, by the E-commerce engine, an order number and displaying the request for quotes;

transmitting, by the portal, a request for quotes to selected vendors, said request being based on the user answers;

receiving by the portal, responses to the request for quotes (RFQ), said responses including quoted/order cost amount;

formatting and displaying, by the portal, said responses from the vendors;

selecting, by the user, a response;

by the portal, linking the user to an e-commerce site of the vendor corresponding to the selected response to complete order payment.

Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

The prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the combination, *inter alia*, of

uploading, by the plurality of vendors, data including at least one XSD, each XSD corresponding to one product, each product including at least one element, each element including at least one sub-element, each sub-element including at least one variable, each variable including at least one attribute of the product;

... displaying, by the portal, at least one screen including a plurality of product option questions, each product option question corresponding to at least one product attribute and corresponding a plurality of attribute values, said attribute values displaying drop-down menus and data fields, said data fields having formats including numeric, alpha-numeric and drop-down fields;

... displaying, by the portal, a primary screen, said primary screen including at least one of an additional information screen and an SVG screen to permit the user to enter data, and updating the primary screen after the user leaves each field;

generating, by the portal, a real-time graphic image based on a user drawn SVG image on said SVG screen;

... cross-checking, by the portal, each sub-element and checking for errors per predefined rules, said validation including validating an acceptable range wherein said checks include specifying regular expression patterns according to other fields in the XSD;

The closes US prior art of record, prior art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious the combination, *inter alia*, of Davidov (US 7,305,671), discloses the use of XSD and presenting option questions, but neither anticipates nor renders obvious applicant's

displaying, by the portal, at least one screen including a plurality of product option questions, each product option question corresponding to at least one product attribute and corresponding a plurality of attribute values, said attribute values displaying

drop-down menus and data fields, said data fields having formats including numeric, alpha-numeric and drop-down fields;

... displaying, by the portal, a primary screen, said primary screen including at least one of an additional information screen and an SVG screen to permit the user to enter data, and updating the primary screen after the user leaves each field; generating, by the portal, a real-time graphic image based on a user drawn SVG image on said SVG screen;

The closest non-patent literature is previously cited Parametric Shopping Cart, downloaded from ProQuest Direct on 03/28/2007. However, Parametric Shopping Cart neither anticipates nor renders obvious the combination recited above.

Also of interest is a Press Release from www.prweb.com, dated November 2003, downloaded from ProQuest Direct on the Internet on 09/13/2009, 1 page. Again, this document neither anticipates nor renders obvious the combination recited above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES ZURITA whose telephone number is (571)272-6766. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571)272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James Zurita/
James Zurita
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3625
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